HEALTH
A 25 MAY 59
C.R. 23

1 In Office 57
2 Library

WITHNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S

REPORT 1957.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

To the Chairman and Members of the
WITHNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District of Withnell for the year ending 31st December, 1957.

The live Births registered in your District for the year were 38, four less than the previous year. The adjusted birth rate is 15.0 compared with 16.7 last year.

The number of deaths were 35, compared with 32 last year. The adjusted death rate is 15.2, last year's figure being 12.0. The main cause of death was again heart disease in its various forms 24 deaths being attributed to this cause. The second largest cause of death was bronchitis, 6 deaths being caused by this, compared with one last year. Heart disease appears to be on the increase in the district. This year's figures show an increase of 7 over last year's figures.

In contrast with the above rather gloomy picture it is again most pleasing to report that there were no deaths in connection with child birth, or of infants under one year.

This suggest that while the medical services have achieved some measure of success in the anti-natal and post-natal fields, much remains to be done in preventing the onset of heart disease, especially when it occurs in the prime of life. Research into this problem is proceeding in many quarters.

Two deaths were due to respiratory T.B. and three to malignant neoplasms.

During the year as outbreak of measles effected 60 children of 5 years and under. There were no deaths. Other infectious diseases were few in number.

12 pail closets were converted to fresh water closets in 1957. This was the result of the committee's decision to institute more energetic steps towards this desirable end. A further increase in conversions is to be expected in 1958.

6 applications for Improvement Grants were submitted by private individuals under the Housing Act, 1949 in 1957. All were approved by the committee and the work has been completed.

Other matters regarding the Sanitary Circumstances are dealt with in the report.

In conclusion I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman ane members for the kind consideration given to Dr.Doherty and my self at all times.

My thanks are also due to Mr.Barratt, Clerk of the Council and Mr.Hall Surveyor and Health Inspector for their willing co-operation during the year.

J. WALKER.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

SECTION A.

The area of the district is 4,190 acres. The population figure at the 1931 Census was 3,040. For 1957 the Registrar General calculated the population as 2,810.

The rateable value was £21,835 and a penny rate produced £85.

The chief industries are Paper Making, Quarrying, Saw Mills and Cotton Mills. There has been no change in social conditions.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.	Male	Female	Total.
1. LIVE BIRTHS.			
Legitimate	19	16	35
Illegitimate	2	1	3
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 13.5 Adjusted 15.0			
2. STILL BIRTHS			
Legitimate	2	NIL	2
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Rate per 1,000 TOTAL Births 50.			

DEATHS	Male	Female	Total.
1. ALL CAUSES	20	18	38
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population Crude 14.6 Adjusted 15.2			
2. RESPIRATORY T.B.	1	1	2
Rate per 1,000 estimated population 0.71			
3. MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS	1	2	3
Rate per 1,000 estimated population 1.07			
4. MATERNAL MORTALITY			
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion		Nil	Nil
Rate per 1,000 TOTAL Births NIL.			
5. INFANTILE MORTALITY.			
A. Under one year Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Rate per 1,000 LIVE Births NIL.			
B. Under Four Weeks Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Rate per 1,000 LIVE Births NIL.			

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

SECTION A.

The area of the district is 4,190 acres. The population there at the last Census was 3,040. For 1957 the Registrar General calculated the population as 3,810.

The rateable value was £21,325 and a penny rate produced £85.

The chief industries are timber tanning, quarrying, saw mills and cotton mills. There has been no change in social conditions.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

	Male	Female	Total.
1. LIVE BIRTHS.			
Legitimate	15	16	31
Illegitimate	2	1	3
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 11.5 Adjusted 15.0			
2. STILL BIRTHS			
Legitimate	2	NIL	2
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Rate per 1,000 TOTAL BIRTHS 50.			

DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total.
1. ALL CAUSES	20	13	33
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population Crude 14.6 Adjusted 15.2			
2. INFANTILE T.B.	1	1	2
Rate per 1,000 estimated population 0.71			
3. MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS	1	2	3
Rate per 1,000 estimated population 1.07			
4. MATERNAL MORTALITY			
Puerperal Sepsis. Abortion	NIL		NIL
Rate per 1,000 TOTAL BIRTHS NIL.			
5. INFANTILE MORTALITY			
a. Under one year			
Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Rate per 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS NIL.			
b. Under four weeks			
Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Rate per 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS NIL.			

COMPARABILITY FACTORS.

BIRTHS 1.11

DEATHS 1.04

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS
CRUDE RATES.

YEAR	Live Births		Deaths all causes		Still - births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Total under 1 year		Mortality Neo-Natal under 4 weeks.	
	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 Population	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 population	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 total Deaths	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 total Births	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.
1957	38	13.5	41	14.6	2	50	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1956	42	14.9	32	11.3	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1955	41	14.5	56	19.5	2	47	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1954	37	13.0	32	11.3	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1953	32	11.3	34	12.1	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	1	31	NIL	NIL
1952	44	15.6	35	12.4	1	22	NIL	NIL	1	25	NIL	NIL
1951	40	14.1	53	18.7	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	1	25	NIL	NIL

ADJUSTED Live Birth Rate (comparability factor 1.11) 15.0 per 1,000 est. popn.
ADJUSTED Death Rate (comparability factor 1.04)15.2 per 1,000 est. popn.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

LIVE BIRTH RATE 16.1 per 1,000 home population.

DEATH RATE 11.5 per 1,000 home population.

ANALYSIS OF CAUSE OF DEATH.

CAUSE	Male	Female	Total
1.Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	1	2
10.Malignant Neoplasms, Stomach	1	-	1
12.Malignant Neoplasms, Breast	-	1	1
14.Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	-	1	1
17.Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	3	5	8
18.Coronary Disease, Angina	4	2	6
19.Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	-	1
20.Other Heart Disease	4	5	9
23.Pneumonia	-	1	1
24.Bronchitis	4	2	6
29.Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
32.Other Defined or ill-defined Diseases	-	3	3
35.Suicide	1	-	1
All Causes	20	21	41

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30288095

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health - J. Walker, M.B., C.H.B., L.D.S., D.P.H., D.P.D.

Other Public Appointments.

M.O.H.	Chorley Borough
M.O.H.	Leyland U.D.C.
M.O.H.	Longridge U.D.C.
M.O.H.	Preston U.D.C.
M.O.H.	Preston R.D.C.

HEALTH INSPECTOR Reginald Barker Hall.
a Part Time Officer holding the appointment of Surveyor.

No other Public Health Officer held office during 1957.

LABORATORY SERVICES.

The Laboratory at Preston Infirmary was available for the examination of specimens for the diagnosis of cases of infectious disease and for pathological specimens for ordinary disease.

Similar use of this Laboratory was made for the bacteriological examination of samples of milk, water and ice cream etc.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Provided by the Lancashire County Council Ambulance Service (Chorley Depot) - Telephone 2744.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There is one District Nurse practising in the area. She is Nurse M. Anderton, 12, Queen's Way, Brinscall Nr. Chorley.

TREATMENT CLINIC FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN.

The 'Minor Ailment' Clinic is held at 20, St.Thomas's Road, Chorley. each Monday at 10.30 a.m.

Ancillary School Clinics (Orthopaedic, Dental and Eye etc.) are held at Chorley and attended by Practitioners of Specialist Status. Attendance by appointment via School Medical Staff.

CHEST CLINIC.

The Chest Clinic is at 34, St.Thomas's Road, Chorley. The Chest Physician attends each Tuesday at 10 a.m. This Clinic is a consultant Clinic for all Chest Conditions.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS.

Held at Chorley and District Hospital, Wigan Infirmary and Bolton Infirmary.

HOSPITAL FACILITIES.

For non-infectious cases - Chorley and District Hospital, Preston Infirmary, Blackburn Infirmary and Sharoe Green.

For Infectious cases - Isolation Hospital, Heath Charnock.

Smallpox - Smallpox Hospital, Ainsworth, Nr.Bury.

Tuberculosis - Sanitprium (50 Beds at Isolation Hospital, Heath Charnock).

All administered by Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

COUNTY HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES.

These Services are administered by the Lancashire County Council.

Domicilary Facilities.

There is one District Nurse, Midwife, Miss M.Anderton, 12,Queen's Way, Brinscall, Nr.Chorley. Telephone Brinscall 227 employed by the Lancashire County Council practising in this area.

Ante-Natal Clinics & Post Natal Clinics.

These Clinics are held on Fridays (at 10 am.) at 2-4, St. Thomas's Road, Chorley. They are attended by a consultant obstetrician. No appointment is needed for the first visit.

Maternity Beds.

The available accommodation at Chorley is as follows:-

Chorley and District Hospital

Eaves Lane Hospital, Chorley.

Child Welfare Centres.

A Child Welfare Clinic is held fortnightly (Tuesdays 2-4 p.m.) at the Withnell Conservative Club, and is attended fortnightly by a Medical Officer (Dr. Beirne) of the Lancashire County Council as well as the County Health Visitor Ministry of Health Welfare Foods and other propriety baby foods may be obtained at this clinic.

Health Visitors.

The County's Health Visitor for the area is Nurse Lamb who is available to give advice on all the County Health and Welfare Services. She may be consulted through the Divisional Officer, 55, Victoria Road, Fulwood, Preston. (Telephone Preston 77265)

Home Helps

A Home Help Service in cases of Sickness, Maternity or Old Age is available in the area. Application for Home Helps should be made to the Divisional Health Office, 55, Victoria Road, Fulwood, Preston (Telephone Preston 77265)

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of persons on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was

Types of Tuberculosis.	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952.
Respiratory	15	15	16	16	16	16
Non Respiratory	NIL	NIL	NIL	2	5	4

New Cases and Mortality 1956.

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Infectious Diseases were admitted to the Joint Hospital at Deepdale

Smallpox Cases - there were none - would have been admitted to the Ainsworth Hospital at Bury.

Notifiable Disease	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED											
	Total all ages	Age periods - Years										
		0 - 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	25 +	Age Unknown	
Smallpox	NIL											
Scarlet Fever	NIL											
Diptheria	NIL											
Measles	60	1	10	4	6	9	30					
Whooping Cough	NIL											
Acute Pneumonia	2	1								1		
Erysipelas	NIL											
Puerperal pyrexia	NIL											
Poliomyelitis	NIL											
Meningococcal Infection	NIL											
Food Poisoning	NIL											
Totals	62	2	10	4	6	9	30	-	-	1	-	-	NIL

INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Production.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 inspection and supervision of milk production is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The Local Authority is responsible for the cleanliness and safety of Milk Retailed in the district. Samples were taken and were satisfactory.

Meat and other Foods.

Meat is brought direct as there is no private slaughterhouse in the district.

Tinned meat, fruit and veg tables were inspected and in cases where necessary were voluntarily surrendered for condemnation.
No Statutory action was necessary.

Ice Cream.

No samples of Ice Cream were taken for analysis under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations. 20 Visits were paid to these premises.

Water Supply.

The supply is obtained from the Liverpool Corporation Waterworks Undertaking from Withnell Reservoir (upland surface water).
930 dwelling houses and an estimated population of 2,760 persons are supplied with this water.
18 bacteriological examinations of water were made in the year of these all were satisfactory. Proposed scheme for the installation of Micro-strainer and chlorinator submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government which has been approved in principal, but is postponed due to the restriction on capital expenditure and due to the Minister's policy of regrouping.

A further 30 dwelling houses - estimated population 90 - obtain their water from private supplies. There were no reports of unsatisfactory primate water supplies during 1957.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are two Sewerage Works with settlement tanks and sprinklers and one Works with settlement tanks and contact beds, the effluent being dealt with by land irrigation. The only areas without proper drainage systems are isolated farms and premises which are a considerable distance from any sewer.

Closet Accommodation at the end of 1957.

Privy Middens	None
Pail Closets	81
Dry Ashpits	1
Moveable Ashbins	912
Waste Water Closets	33
Fresh Water Closets	868
Houses on Water carriage system	885

During the year 12 pail closets were converted to Fresh Water Closets.

Public Cleansing.

The Collection and disposal of house refuse was carried out weekly by the Council. The refuse was collected by motor lorry and disposed of by controlled tipping.

Sanitary Inspections.

The number of inspections for nuisances and for defects during the year was 82 and 37 found to be defective, 33 of these were abated and 37 informal notices were served. No Statutory Notices were served, and there were no legal proceedings.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

There is one Part Time Rodent operative employed by this authority

Action relating to rodent control during year ended 31st December, 1957.

	Types of Property.		
	Non-agricultural		Agricultural
	Dwelling Houses	All other	
(a) Number of properties in district	957	55	43
(b) Number of properties inspected	36	9	37
(c) Total inspections carried out(incl. re-inspections)	65	14	60
(d) Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:-			
Rats - Major	-	-	-
Minor	14	5	5
Mice - Major			
Minor	22	4	6
(e) Number of infested properties treated	36	9	11
(f) Total treatments carried out (incl.retr.)	38	10	12
(g) Number of Block control schemes carried out.	2	NIL	NIL

SCHOOLS.

The total number of schools in the district at the end of 1957 were 5.

Sanitary Conditions of schools at end of year:-

(a) Number of schools with unsatisfactory yard surfaces. 2.

(b) Sanitary accommodation Number of Schools with: (i) Fresh Water Closets only 5.
(ii) Waste Water Closets only NIL (iii) Trough closets only NIL
(iv) Pail Closets only NIL (v) Privy closets only NIL
(vi) Other types NIL.

(c) Drainage - No. of Schools with drainage to:-
(i) Public Sewer 5 (ii) Private treatment works NIL.

(d) Refuse disposal - No of schools with:-
(i) Dustbins 5 (ii) Dry Ashpits NIL

(e) Water supply - No. of schools with:-
(i) Public Mains 5 (ii) Private Supply NIL
No. of private supplies (e(ii) considered unsatisfactory NIL.

(f) No. of schools where facilities are considered unsatisfactory for (i) washing NIL
(ii) drinking NIL

Housing and Housing Conditions.

Mainly due to high cost of repairs in relation to the market value of the property (mostly old), difficulty is being experienced in administering the relevant sections of the Housing and Public Health Acts. The provisions of the Rents Acts are making an improvement to many properties.

The main type of house in the area is the cottage type built in rows with either four or five habitable rooms. The main defects are defective walls, roofs, gutters, spouts and windows.

Overcrowding is mainly due to lodgers.

There are five inhabited back to back houses. There are no inhabited back to earth houses.

Factories and Workshops.

General supervision was exercised over the sanitary conveniences and hygiene of the twenty one factories and five "other premises" registered with the Local Authority. Thirty four inspection were made, no smoke observations were made.

Swimming Baths and Pool.

The Council owns to Public Baths. The plunge is 75 feet by 25 feet. Slipper Baths are also available. There are no privately owned baths. Daily tests are taken to ensure that the water is efficiently chlorinated. Two samples were taken in bacteriological analysis and found to be satisfactory.

Clean Food Campaign.

23 inspections of food premises were made during the year Defects were remedied by voluntary action.

HOUSING ACT,1949. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS ETC.

Action during the year	Private Individuals		Local Authorities.	
	No.of Schemes.	No.of dwellings affected.	No. of Schemes	No. of dwellings affected
A). Submitted by private individuals to L.A.	6	6	-	-
b) Submitted by L.A. to Minister	-	-	-	-
c) Finding approved by Minister	-	-	-	-
d) Work completed	6	6	-	-
e) Additional separate dwellings included in d)	-	-	-	-

Chief Sanitary Requirements for the District.

1) Additional provision to be made for the purification and treatment of water supply
2) Extension to existing sewage works.
3) Conversion of all pail closets.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation against Diptheria, Whooping Cough & Tetanus

Children under school age	-	10
Children of school age	-	-
Children re-inforced	-	-

Immunisation against Diptheria & Whooping Cough.

Children under school age	-	1
Children of school age	-	-
Children re-inforced	-	-

Immunisation against Diptheria only

Children under school age	-	1
Children of school age	-	1
Children re-inforced	-	45

Immunisation against Whooping Cough only

Children under school age	-	-
Children of school age	-	-
Children re-inforced	-	-

Vaccination against Smallpox.

Number of primary vaccinations	-	25
Number of re-vaccinations	-	11

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

59 Children were vaccinated against Poliomyelitis.